

Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action group (CCAG)

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

On

S.B. No. 176 AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITIES

H.B. No. 5199 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF ADVANCED
METERING INFRASTRUCTURE

H.B. No. 5200 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY
HYDROGEN POWER

H.B. No. 5202

AN ACT EXEMPTING EXISTING NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING
FACILITIES IN THE STATE FROM THE NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM

H.B. No. 5203 AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY COMPANY COST-SHARING
MECHANISMS

March 3, 2022

Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti and other members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Tom Swan, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of our thousands of member families I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to weigh in on several bills today.

I want to preface my remarks by stating our belief that is way overdue for Connecticut to stop having our energy policy be driven by corporate lobbyists and to start leading in terms of addressing climate change in a manner that puts Connecticut residents first. Whether you want it or not, this committee deserves a great deal of credit for Eversource's obscene announcement that they had a \$1.2 billion profit in 2021. They couldn't have done it without you. What's really unfortunate they are not the only energy interest who owe you their gratitude.

It is past due that we begin to Look UP and change our ways. Towards this end I offer the following comments:

While we support much of S.B.176 AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITIES we believe there need to be changes. We associate ourselves with the Coalition for Sensible Solar Regulation comments, especially doubling the caps on solar

and commercial caps. We oppose allowing the EDCs to own SCEF facilities but are open to a review by PURA.

We think looking to use federal funding for smart meters as in H.B. 5199 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE is better than other ideas that were surfacing for financing smart meters. We also think these funds should be used to significantly increase our energy efficiency efforts, including workforce development and to exponentially expand the adoption of heat pump technologies, especially targeting low-income residents.

We oppose H.B. 5200 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HYDROGEN POWER. This feels like déjà vu all over again in terms of bad corporate driven policy. The make up of the committee is a clear attempt to negotiate amongst corporate interests a policy. One token environmentalist and no consumer representation is embarrassing even for this committee. We believe this is an effort to prop up the gas pipelines that the gas companies pushed on the lie that they would be cheaper and cleaner. Fool us once...

We also oppose H.B. 5202 AN ACT EXEMPTING EXISTING NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITIES IN THE STATE FROM THE NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM. We need to focus on the rapid deployment of real clean energy solutions and stop bending over for corporate interests. This is a bad idea and needs to be rejected.

CCAG supports H.B. 5203 AN ACT CONCERNING UTILITY COMPANY COST-SHARING MECHANISMS. We think providing PURA with these additional tools can help to lower rates. I want to emphasize the part of this that the cost of trade associations no longer be included in rates. This is obscene and we thank you for proposing to eliminate this.

Have a great day.